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| 1 | UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT |
| 2 | WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS |
| 3 | SAN ANTONIO DIVISION |
| 4 | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, § CRIMINAL NO. 5:12-102-OLG-1 |
| 5 | \$ \$ 5. Managh 21 2014 |
| 6 | v. § March 31, 2014 ANTONIO PENA ARGUELLES, § |
| 7 | S DEFENDANT. S |
| 8 | |
| 9 | TRANSCRIPT OF REARRAIGNMENT |
| 10 | BEFORE THE HONORABLE ORLANDO L. GARCIA CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE |
| 11 | APPEARANCES: |
| 12 | For the Government: CHARLIE STRAUSS, AUSA |
| 13 | CHARLIE LEWIS, AUSA MARY NELDA VALADEZ, AUSA |
| 14 | Office of US Attorney 601 NW Loop 410, Suite 600 San Antonio, Texas 78216 |
| 15 | San Anconio, lexas /8216 |
| 16 | For the Defendant: GERALD HARRIS GOLDSTEIN, ESQ. VAN HILLEY, ESQ. |
| 17 | Goldstein, Goldstein & Hilley |
| 18 | 310 S. St. Mary's, Suite 2900 San Antonio, TX 78205 |
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| 25 | Produced by mechanical stenography; computer-aided transcription |
| İ | Leticia Ornelas Rangel, CSR |

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S1 2 THE COURT: Okay. You may be seated. I'll proceed 3 to call U.S. v. Antonio Pena Arquelles, Cause number 12-CR-102. 4 MR. STRAUSS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Charlie 5 Strauss for the United States. 6 7 THE COURT: Okay. MR. STRAUSS: And also Charlie Lewis, Special 8 Assistant from the Southern District of Texas. 9 10 THE COURT: Okay. 11 MR. STRAUSS: And I assume in a few moments, Mary 12 Nelda Valadez from our office will be here. 13 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you. 14 MR. STRAUSS: She is also representing the 15 government. 16 THE COURT: Thank you. 17 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Jerry Goldstein together with Van We represent Mr. Pena. Cynthia Orr is also counsel 18 Hilley. 19 of record. She is in Austin with the Court of Appeals this 20 afternoon. 21 MR. STRAUSS: Okay. 2.2 MR. GOLDSTEIN: And we have three lawyers too. 23 THE COURT: Okay. Indeed. If you and your client will come over here, please. Thank you. 2.4 25 Jessica, if you will swear in Mr. Pena.

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THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Yes, Your Honor.
                                                         Please
 1
 2
     raise your right hand.
 3
               Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole
     truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?
 4
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: I do swear.
 5
               THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank you.
 6
 7
               THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Pena, do you wish to be
     called Mr. Pena or Mr. Arguelles?
 8
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Pena.
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10
               THE COURT: Pena. Okay. Mr. Pena, the Court
11
     understands that you wish to plead guilty to Count One of the
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     superseding information returned on March 27, 2014. Is this
13
     correct?
14
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: It's correct, Your
15
     Honor.
16
               THE COURT: Mr. Goldstein, how long have you
17
     represented the defendant and on how many occasions have you
    had an opportunity to talk to your client and discuss this
18
19
     case?
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               MR. GOLDSTEIN: I believe we had -- our firm has
21
    represented Mr. Pena for over two years, Your Honor. I have
    had hundreds of meetings with him as have my able-counsel,
22
    Mr. Hilley and Ms. Orr. And I believe we have spent
23
     considerable time together.
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               THE COURT: Okay. So you have had sufficient time
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to review his case with him?
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               MR. GOLDSTEIN: I have, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Okay. Do you have any doubt,
 4
    Mr. Goldstein, as to your client's competence to proceed in
     this matter and enter a plea at this time?
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               MR. GOLDSTEIN: I do not, Your Honor, and I believe
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 7
     he understands both the consequences of that plea and the
     factual basis.
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 9
               THE COURT: So you believe he has both a factual as
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     well as a rational understanding of the proceedings, and he
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    has sufficient present ability to consult with you within a
     reasonable degree of rational understanding. Is this
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     correct?
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               MR. GOLDSTEIN: I do, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Okay. Then let me ask, Mr. Pena, have
     you ever suffered or do you suffer now from any mental or
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17
     physical impairment which could have an effect on your
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     ability to understand the charge against you?
19
     words--.
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               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Not at any time.
               THE COURT: Okay. At any time. Okay. Are you
21
22
    presently under the influence of any medication, drug, or
23
     alcohol, or anything that might prevent you from
     understanding today's proceeding?
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               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: No, Your Honor.
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THE COURT: Okay. I'll ask the prosecutor, the
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 2
     Assistant U.S. Attorney, to summarize the plea agreement.
                                                                 Ι
 3
     have reviewed the plea agreement which has been on file.
               MR. STRAUSS: Your Honor, the defendant is pleading
 4
 5
     quilty to the superseding information that was charged as a
     conspiracy to launder monetary instruments. The government
 6
 7
     basically in exchange for that is making a recommendation
 8
     pursuant to Rule 11C1C of the Federal Rules of Criminal
 9
     Procedure, a binding recommendation of a 30-month sentence.
10
               THE COURT: Okay. And let me ask, Mr. Pena, have
11
    you had an opportunity to review the written plea agreement?
12
     That is the document, the agreement between the government,
13
     yourself, and your attorney?
14
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Absolutely. Yes.
15
               THE COURT: And you understand the complete plea
16
     agreement?
17
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor.
18
               THE COURT: And have you signed the plea agreement?
19
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
20
               THE COURT: Do you have any questions?
21
               MR. GOLDSTEIN: If I may interrupt. He signed the
     agreement, and it was interrupted for him and translated for
22
23
     him by Mr. John Brown, who has been providing those services
     for us.
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25
               THE COURT:
                           Okay.
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MR. GOLDSTEIN: And I think Mr. Brown has indicated
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 2
     the same on the file copy, Your Honor.
 3
               THE COURT: Okay. And so do you understand the
 4
    plea agreement, Mr. Pena?
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
 5
 6
               THE COURT: And do you agree to the terms of the
 7
    plea agreement?
 8
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Totally. I'm in
 9
     agreement with them.
10
               THE COURT:
                          Okay. You are charged in Count One of
11
     the superseding information with conspiring to launder money
12
     instruments in violation of 18 U.S. Code, Section 1956H.
13
     you understand that you have the right to plead not guilty to
14
     the charge?
15
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand.
               THE COURT: Knowing this, how do you plead? Guilty
16
17
    or not quilty to the charge just named?
18
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: I plead guilty.
19
               THE COURT: Before accepting your plea of guilty,
20
    there are a number of rights I wish to advise you of. There
     will be a number of questions I will ask of you. If you do
21
22
    not understand any of these rights or questions or at any
23
    time wish to consult with your lawyer, please let me know.
24
    Okay.
25
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
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THE COURT: Okay. Have you had enough time,
Mr. Pena, to fully discuss your case and possible defenses to
the charges that you have? Have you had enough time to
discuss this matter with your lawyer?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor, lots of
time.
          THE COURT: Are you satisfied with your attorney's
representation of you?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Totally and absolutely.
          THE COURT: And have you received a copy, Mr. Pena,
of the superseding information stating the charge against
you, that is, have you received the copy of the charge?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor.
          THE COURT: And have you read it or has it been
read to you?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor.
          THE COURT: And have you discussed with your
attorney the charge and the superseding information to which
you intend to plead guilty to?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor.
          THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Goldstein, I'll now ask the
Assistant U.S. Attorney to formally read the charge, unless
you waive the reading of the charge. I'm asking you,
Mr. Goldstein, do you waive the reading of the charge?
          MR. GOLDSTEIN: I certainly will waive it, Your
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Honor. 1 2 THE COURT: Let me ask Mr. Pena, do you 3 understand -- I know some of these questions, Mr. Pena, are going to sound repetitive. They are necessary for the whole 4 process. If at any point you don't understand something, 5 please let me know. I will restate it or let you confer with 6 7 your lawyers. Do you understand the charge? 8 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand it. 9 THE COURT: Do you have any questions concerning 10 the charge and the superseding information? DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Not any question nor any 11 12 doubt. 13 THE COURT: Now as to the charge of conspiring to 14 launder money instruments in violation of 18 U.S. Code, 15 Section 1962D as contained in the superseding information, is this what you did and is this what you are pleading guilty 16 17 to? DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor. 18 19 THE COURT: Do you understand that under the 2.0 Constitution and laws of the United States, you're entitled 21 to a trial by jury on the charge against you? Do you understand this? 2.2 23 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: If you elect to go to a trial before a 2.4

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jury, you have the right to challenge the composition and

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make-up of the jury panel out of which a jury would be selected to hear your case. Do you understand this right? DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand. THE COURT: Further, do you understand that at a trial and at every stage of the proceedings against you, you have the right to assistance of counsel? DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand. THE COURT: Further, do you understand that you are presumed to be innocent and that the government is required to prove your guilt by competent evidence beyond a reasonable doubt before you can be found quilty, and you do not have to prove that you are innocent. Do you understand this? DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand it perfectly. THE COURT: Do you further understand that in the course of a trial, the witnesses for the government would have to come to court and testify in your presence, and your counsel could cross-examine the witnesses for the government, object to evidence offered by the government, and offer evidence on your behalf. Do you understand this? DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I understand. THE COURT: Do you further understand that at a trial, while you would have the right to testify, if you chose to do so, you also have the right not to testify, and

no inference or suggestion of guilt could be drawn from the

fact that you did not testify. In other words, it cannot be 1 2 held against you. Do you understand this? 3 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand. THE COURT: Additionally, do you understand that 4 while you are not required to do so and could not be 5 compelled to do so, you have the right at trial to call 6 7 witnesses on your behalf and to present evidence. Do you understand? 8 9 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: If you plead quilty and I accept your 11 plea, you will waive, in other words, give up your right to a 12 trial and the other rights I just discussed with you, except 13 your right to be represented by your lawyer. 14 By pleading guilty, you convict yourself by your 15 own admission of quilt. There will be no trial. I'll enter a judgment of guilty and sentence you on the basis of your 16 17 quilty plea. Do you understand what I have just explained to 18 you, Mr. Pena? 19 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir. 20 THE COURT: Do you understand that if you plead 21 quilty, I might ask you some questions about the offense to which you're pleading, and you will no longer have the right 22 23 to remain silent about those charges. Do you understand this? 2.4

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DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I understand.

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THE COURT: Do you understand that if you answer
the questions under oath on the record in the presence of
your lawyer, your answers may later be used against you in a
prosecution for perjury or false statement if your answers
are untrue. Do you understand this?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Perfectly.
          THE COURT: Having discussed your rights with you,
do you still wish to plead guilty?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor.
          THE COURT: And, Mr. Pena, are you pleading guilty
because in fact you are quilty and for no other reason?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: That's true.
          THE COURT: I will impose a sentence after
considering the guidelines established by the U.S. Sentencing
Commission. A range of punishment will be determined
considering such things as the nature and circumstances of
the offense or conduct in the case, and your past criminal
history. However, the Sentencing Guidelines are only
advisory, and I am not required to sentence you within that
quideline range. I can sentence you to a term between a
minimum and maximum statutory penalties. Do you understand
this?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor.
          THE COURT: As part of your plea agreement, you're
giving up the right to appeal your sentence as well as the
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right to contest your sentence in any type of post-conviction
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     preceding, except in very limited circumstances. Do you
     understand this?
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               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand it.
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               THE COURT: And have you discussed the waiver of
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     appeal with your attorney?
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               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor.
               THE COURT: And do you agree to waive your right to
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 9
     appeal and contest your sentence?
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               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
11
               THE COURT: Do you understand the maximum possible
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    penalty under Count One of the superseding information is 20
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     years imprisonment, a supervised release term of up to three
     years, a fine of up to $500,000, and a mandatory 100-dollar
14
15
     special assessment. Do you understand this?
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               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
17
               THE COURT: There's no longer any possibility,
18
    Mr. Pena, of parole in the federal court system.
19
     sentence you receive is the time you'll serve less credit for
20
     good time. Do you understand this?
21
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
22
               THE COURT: Do you also understand that in addition
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    to any fine or restitution imposed, you may be required to
    pay the cost of incarceration, if you are incarcerated, and
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     the cost of supervision, if you are given supervised release.
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Do you understand this?

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DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand.

THE COURT: Supervised release is a term of supervision which you must serve after completing your initial term of confinement. As mentioned earlier, for the type of offense to which you are pleading guilty, it is mandatory that you be given a maximum of three years supervised release in addition to any other imprisonment. Supervised release begins to run at the termination of your imprisonment.

While on supervised release, you will be required to comply with various conditions. Failure to comply with any of these conditions could result in revocation of your supervised release term. If the supervised release — rather, let me restate that. If the supervised release is revoked for any violation of its terms, you may be required to serve an additional term of confinement equal to the term of the supervised release to which you were sentenced.

That term of imprisonment can be as long as the original term of supervised release, even if the violation and revocation occur at the end of the term. For example, Mr. Pena, if you receive a three-year term of supervised release and at the end of the third year you violate a term or condition of supervised release, you may be sentenced to serve up to three more years in prison without credit for any

time already served on supervised release. 1 2 In addition, I can, after revocation of a term of 3 supervised release, include in the new sentence a period of 4 incarceration followed by a new term of supervised release, so long as the sum of incarceration of supervised release 5 term does not exceed the original supervised release term. 6 7 Do you understand supervised release and the consequences it has on the amount of time you may have to serve? 8 9 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand. 10 THE COURT: Do you have any questions about 11 supervised release, Mr. Pena? 12 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: No, Your Honor. 13 THE COURT: You're further advised that the Court 14 is required to assess a one-time monetary assessment of \$100. 15 This assessment is mandatory in addition to any fine the 16 Court may impose. 17 Now, Mr. Pena, are you pleading guilty freely and voluntarily and with the full knowledge of the consequences? 18 19 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir. 20 THE COURT: Has anyone threatened you, Mr. Pena, or 21 coerced you or forced you in any way to plead guilty? 22 DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Nobody, sir. 23 THE COURT: Has anyone made any promise to you, 2.4 other than the plea agreement that induced you to plead

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quilty?

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DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES:
                                     No, sir.
          THE COURT: Now you understand, Mr. Pena, that I'm
not required to accept the plea agreement. Do you understand
this?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand it.
          THE COURT: If I do not accept the plea agreement,
you will be advised in open court, and you will have the
opportunity to withdraw your guilty plea. If you persist in
your quilty plea after the plea agreement is rejected, if it
is rejected, your sentence or disposition of your case may be
less favorable to you than that proposed in the plea
agreement. Do you understand this?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand.
          THE COURT: Has anyone made any prediction,
prophesy, or promise to you as to what your sentence will be?
Let me restate that. Has anyone made any promise or prophesy
or prediction to you as to what your sentence will be?
          DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: No, sir.
          THE COURT: Okay.
          MR. GOLDSTEIN: Your Honor, other than the 11C1C
agreement.
          THE COURT: Yes. That's contained in the plea
agreement.
          MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes, sir.
          THE COURT: Okay. What, in summary, is the
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government's evidence, counsel?
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               MR. STRAUSS: It's about a five-page recitation in
 3
     the plea agreement, Your Honor. Generally speaking -- .
               MR. GOLDSTEIN: Your Honor, we have signed the
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 5
     factual basis. It is lengthy. My client I believe will
     advise the Court that he has read it thoroughly and agrees to
 6
 7
     that factual basis.
 8
               THE COURT: It involves the number of laundering
 9
     activity.
10
               MR. STRAUSS:
                            The allegations in the factual basis,
11
     in brief, show that Mr. Pena accepted money from entities,
12
     money that were proceeds from the sale of controlled
13
     substances and basically made deposits of those monies --
14
     laundered those monies on behalf of the persons who owned the
15
     proceeds.
16
               THE COURT:
                           Okay.
17
               MR. GOLDSTEIN: And, Your Honor, I believe it
     actually -- those proceeds as well as other -- the proceeds
18
19
     from other illegal conduct.
20
               THE COURT: Okay.
               MR. GOLDSTEIN: And I believe it provides that the
21
22
    proceeds of the above-described conduct were deposited in the
23
     United States.
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               THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Now, Mr. Pena,
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    again, you have reviewed the contents of the plea agreement?
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DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
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               THE COURT: And in the plea agreement it details a
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     list of activities that you performed. Is that correct?
 4
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Clearly. Yes, sir.
               THE COURT: All of which were in violation of the
 5
     law.
           Is that correct?
 6
 7
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: That's correct.
               THE COURT: And you have reviewed the documents
 8
 9
     with your lawyer and the interpreter who assisted in
10
     interpreting the language of the document to you. Is that
11
     correct?
12
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, Your Honor.
13
               THE COURT: Do you have any questions about the
14
    plea agreement?
15
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: No doubt.
16
               THE COURT: Now, Mr. Pena, do you agree that if you
17
     were to go to trial, the government would produce sufficient
18
     witnesses and exhibits to establish your quilt beyond a
19
    reasonable doubt?
20
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
21
               THE COURT: In other words, if you were to plead --
     if you wanted to go to trial, do you believe the government
22
23
     could prove the case against you?
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, sir.
2.4
25
               THE COURT: Okay. Do you have any questions about
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the plea agreement?
 1
 2
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: No, Your Honor.
 3
               THE COURT: Okay. And is this what you did, that
 4
     is, what is contained in the plea agreement, is that exactly
 5
     what you did?
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: That's right.
 6
 7
               THE COURT: Okay. Now that the charge and the
     superseding information and the factual basis for it have
 8
 9
     been read to you, I want to ask you again, Mr. Pena, if you
10
     understand the nature of the charge against you?
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand it.
11
               THE COURT: Do you understand that before you can
12
13
     be found quilty of the charge to which you have pled quilty,
14
     the government must prove the facts contained in the plea
15
     agreement against you beyond a reasonable doubt. Do you
    understand that?
16
17
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Yes, I do understand it.
18
               THE COURT: Now do you have any questions
19
     concerning the charge or the factual basis or the plea
20
     agreement?
21
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: No, sir.
22
               THE COURT: And, again, to the charge of conspiring
23
     to launder money instruments in violation of 18 U.S. Code,
     Section 1956H, how do you plead, guilty or not guilty?
24
25
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Guilty.
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Your Honor, may I just add?
               MR. GOLDSTEIN:
 1
                           Is the statute 18 1956H or?
 2
               THE COURT:
 3
               MR. STRAUSS: Yes, Your Honor.
               THE COURT: It's not 1962D?
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               MR. STRAUSS: It's 1956H, Your Honor.
 5
               THE COURT: Okay.
 6
 7
               MR. GOLDSTEIN: That is right.
               THE COURT: Okay. Let me ask you -- I'm sorry,
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 9
    Mr. Goldstein, you were saying something?
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               MR. GOLDSTEIN: And I apologize for interrupting
11
     the Court, Your Honor. I just wanted to make it clear for the
12
     record that by accepting the general statement regarding the
13
     factual basis, my client, I can advise the Court, did not
14
     intend to expand what is a fairly lengthy statement of the
15
     factual basis beyond that which is contained in the written
     agreement, Your Honor.
16
17
               THE COURT: I understand.
18
               MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you.
19
               THE COURT: Okay. And, Mr. Pena, is there -- do
2.0
     you have any question about anything that has occurred here
    this afternoon about the proceeding? Do you have any
21
22
     questions?
23
               DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: No questions, Your
    Honor.
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               THE COURT: Have you understood everything that has
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occurred here today? DEFENDANT PENA ARGUELLES: Perfectly, sir. THE COURT: Okay. Then the Court finds the defendant's plea is freely and voluntarily made. The defendant fully understands the nature of the charge and penalty. The defendant understands his constitutional and statutory rights and desires to waive them. The defendant is competent to stand trial, and that there is a factual basis as reflected in the plea agreement to which the defendant has reviewed with lawyers, with his interpreter, and has signed and agreed to. At this time the Court does accept your plea of guilty. (End of Rearraignment.)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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     WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
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 3
               I certify that the foregoing is a correct
     transcript from the record of proceedings in the
 4
 5
     above-entitled matter. I further certify that the transcript
 6
     fees and format comply with those prescribed by the Court and
 7
     the Judicial Conference of the United States.
     Date signed: January 7, 2016.
 8
 9
10
                                 /s/Leticia Rangel
                                 LETICIA RANGEL
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                                 United States Court Reporter
12
                                 655 East Cesar E. Chavez Blvd.,
                                 Room 315
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                                 San Antonio, Texas 78206
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